



Denali Commission Update September 2004

Commission Welcomes RurAL CAP Representative

Since its inception, the Denali Commission has focused on collaboration and partnership. This month, the Commission welcomes Rayna Swanson in the newly-created position of liaison from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP). With a background in teaching, training, and addressing conservation and solid waste issues in rural Alaska, Rayna will be helping to bring another perspective to the Commission as she focuses on the Energy program.

Community Planning

“Complete not Compete” Tom Harris, Alaska Village Initiatives

The latest regional update from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta is a demonstration in local collaboration and leadership. The regional non-profits, City of Bethel, and other local stakeholders have generously volunteered planning and community development staff to begin the work of giving direction to YK villages and outside agencies attempting to implement the Denali Commission community planning requirement. Taking the position of “completing rather than competing,” Commission staff continues to provide technical support and information to a local planning group that has been formed by the regional and Bethel-based organizations. Community meetings have been organized and attended by the Bethel Planning group members explaining what this directive means and what support exists to implement the FY’05 funding requirement. As this regional model develops we are interested in supporting the development of other regional planning efforts.

Compare the content of your current planning document with the community plan checklist. If you are not familiar with the following information systems please take some time to visit these sites. Start with the [Planning Checklist](#) and begin checking where information exists that you can use to complete information summaries.

- Community Database On-Line: www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm.
- Land Management and Mapping: www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/mapping.htm.
- Community Plan Website: www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Plans.cfm.
- Regional Economic Development Strategies:
www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/oedp/EDSReview.htm.
- Business Planning for Rural Alaska Utilities:
www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/ruba/busplan/busplan.htm.

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- Community Funding Database: www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm.

If you do not have a regional support network – contact [Michelle Anderson](#) at the Denali Commission for assistance. (907) 271-1542.

Training

The Denali Commission's FY 04 Training Program approved by the Denali Commission in April 2004 received its congressional appropriation from the U.S. Department of Labor for \$4.9MM in July 2004. The State of Alaska Department of Labor (AK DOL) is managing the projects and programs approved by the Commission in April 2004. A financial award between the Commission and AK DOL for a total of \$4.9MM was signed in August 2004. The following programs and projects are receiving funding:

- \$1.6MM - University of Alaska – Allied Health Training
- \$1.25MM – AlaskaWorks Partnership – Construction Training
- \$250,000 – Associated General Contractors – Skills Assessment Program
- \$300,000 – First Alaskans Institute – Internship Program
- \$1.5MM State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development— Denali Training Fund

The Denali Training Fund was established by the Denali Commission to ensure that rural residents have the skills necessary to become employed on the construction, operation, and maintenance of Denali Commission and other State and Federal funded public infrastructure projects. The Commission places priority on funding for training related to Denali Commission infrastructure projects, therefore, the Denali Training Fund will only be accepting applications from Denali Commission related training projects until March 2005 to ensure that available funds meet the demand for training on Commission projects. In March 2005 the Commission will assess whether funds are available to accept applications for training on projects not related to Denali Commission infrastructure.

Applications are received on an on-going basis with quarterly deadlines for review. The next deadline for applications is **December 15, 2004**.

For more information or to apply:

Download an application from www.denali.gov under Training Program or contact:

Gerry McDonagh, Grants Administrator

State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division of Business Partnerships

(907) 269-4551

gerry_mcdonagh@labor.state.ak.us

Any questions about the Denali Commission's FY 04 Training Program please contact:

Krag Johnsen, Deputy Chief of Staff

Denali Commission

(907) 271-1413

kjohnsen@denali.gov

Multi-Use Facility Program

In January, the Denali Commissioners allocated up to \$2.5 million to be used for qualifying Multi-Use Facilities in FFY 04. In March, after reviewing the 7 eligible proposals, the Multi Disciplinary Review Panel recommended funding 4 proposals, 2 without contingencies and 2 with contingencies. The Commission has reviewed contingencies for Delta Junction Career Advancement Center and will fund this project. The Nenana Teen Center contingencies have been reviewed and the Commission is working with the community and other funders to resolve project issues and advance the project. Nenana will be eligible to apply for FFY 05 funding for this project if the Multi Use Program continues.

Funding for the Multi Use Program in FFY 05 is unknown at this time. If the Commission receives communication from Congress that the Multi Use Program will be funded in FFY 05 the process to select projects will begin. Eligibility and general program requirements can be found in FFY 04's RFP at <http://www.denali.gov/Section.cfm?Section=Multiuse%20Facilities> . NOTE: some eligibility and program requirements may change in FFY 05. Link to FFY 04 material is for reference only.

Please contact Rachael Petro, Multi Use Facilities Program Manager, at rpetro@denali.gov or 907-271-1414 with questions.

Health Facilities Program

Primary Care Applications

The Commission has, for the first time with the Primary Care Program, reached the point where there are more sustainable projects than available FY04 funds. As a result, applicants who anticipate project development and funding in FY05 should aggressively submit application materials and complete necessary conceptual planning components. Interested applicants should apply for funding using our Primary Care RFP. In general, for projects greater than \$100,000 a Site Plan Checklist and a Business Plan must be approved prior to commitment of Commission funding.

<i>Health Program Contact Information: Organization</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<i>Denali Commission</i>	<i>Joel Neimeyer (907) 271-1414 main Tessa Rinner Denali Daniels</i>
<i>Alaska Primary Care Association</i>	<i>Marilyn Kasmar (907) 929-2722</i>
<i>Alaska Native Health Board</i>	<i>Trudy Anderson (907) 562-6006</i>
<i>Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association</i>	<i>Rod Betit (907) 586-1790</i>
<i>Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health</i>	<i>Bill Hogan (907)465-3370</i>
<i>Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA)</i>	<i>Jeff Jessee (907) 269-7963</i>

Solid Waste Program

On July 15, approximately 260 copies of the RFP were sent out via fax, e-mail and U.S. mail. Recipients were communities, tribal organizations, ANCSA corporations and non-profits, and technical firms. The thrust of the process is to encourage communities to research technical solutions and co-propose with a “provider”. There will be a number of variations on that theme. A number of RFP recipients have been in contact. There are a couple of strategies in motion to link up communities with technical companies. There is a clear interest in improving the local solid waste handling capabilities.

Washeteria Program

September 15 is the proposal deadline for 04 RFP #2 repair and renovation funds. The RFP is posted on www.denali.gov on the Announcements section of the first page of the website. Preliminary inquiries have come in from two communities.

The cost study for design and construction projects is in progress. Baseline costs per square foot will be determined as well as adjustment factors for site conditions and distance from Anchorage. This study will be a major element in the Denali cost containment strategy for this program.

Solid Waste Program

As of August 31, 33 communities have made preliminary inquiries regarding the solid waste RFP which was released July 15. Communities are asked to co-propose with a technical provider. Awards will be made in three levels, aligned with community size and technical capability.

The RFP is posted on the Announcements section of the first page of the website. There are two modifications to the RFP posted on the solid waste program page. Proposals are due in the office September 15.

Energy Program

The energy program receives about 58% of the Commission’s funding for infrastructure projects. Energy projects have received over \$223 million since the genesis of the Denali Commission, including \$48.7 million in FFY04. This is leveraging over \$115 million from other funding sources. The two primary energy program partners used to complete projects are Alaska Energy Authority with \$126 million for statewide energy projects plus \$7.9 million for legislative energy projects and Alaska Village Electric Cooperative with \$74.3 million presently funded for statewide energy projects. Seven new energy program partners were added this year: Chugach Electric Association, Naknek Electric Association, Cordova Electric Cooperative, Alaska Electric Light & Power(AELP), Four Dam Pool Power Agency, Alaska Power Company, and Southeast Conference. Kwaan Electric Transmission Intertie Cooperative, Inc. has replaced AELP as the project partner for the Juneau-Greens Creek Hoonah Intertie project.

For FFY04 the Commissioners authorized allocation of up to \$70 million for bulk fuel and power projects meeting Commission criteria subject to available funding (Resolution 04-01, <http://www.denali.gov/dcpdb/resolutions/Resolution04-01.pdf>). All funding presently available for

energy projects this year (\$40.1 million) has been allocated. This includes \$19.4 million bulk fuel projects and \$20.7 million for rural power system upgrades. Bulk fuel and power upgrade projects will be selected from the statewide priority lists in consultation with AEA and AVEC.

In addition, the Commissioners authorized up to \$22.06 million for several energy-related projects named in the FFY04 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. Again, this funding is subject to available appropriations, which are currently limited to \$8.9 million. This includes \$2 million to Alaska Power Company for the Tok-Chistochina Intertie project, \$850,000 to Chugach Electric Association for feasibility studies on the Fire Island Intertie and Hope Line relocation and \$6 million for four projects for the Southeast Intertie. These projects also are subject to complying with Denali Commission criteria to receive funding, such as having other funding in place to complete the project, having required matching funds available, having site control for construction projects, etc.

Fifty-four proposals were received by the May 17th deadline for our energy cost reduction projects RFP. Twenty proposals with benefit cost ratios greater than one were offered a combination of \$1.5 million in grants and \$6.5 million in loans to complete a range of projects including diesel efficiency upgrades, geothermal energy, intertie improvements, energy conservation and heat recovery. This represents the Denali Commission's third offering of funding for construction-ready cost reduction projects.

Other Energy News: The 2004 Wind-Diesel Workshop is being held in Anchorage and Girdwood September 28th through October 1st. The agenda and registration information are available at: http://www.eere.energy.gov/windpoweringamerica/wkshp_2004_wind_diesel.html

<i>Energy Program Contact Information: Organization</i>	Contact
<i>Denali Commission</i>	<i>Kathy Prentki, (907) 271-1414</i>
<i>AIDEA/AEA</i>	<i>Mike Harper, (907) 269-3000</i>
<i>AVEC</i>	<i>Meera Kohler, (907) 561-1818</i>
<i>Energy Policy Advisory Committee</i>	<i>Eric Yould, (907) 563-2550</i>